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Aus Eduard Lasker's Nachlass. Von EDUARD LASKER. Edited by Dr. Wilhelm Cahn. (Berlin : Georg Reimer. 1902. Pp. vi, 168.)

THE house of Georg Reimer in Berlin has distinguished itself more than once by undertaking the publication of historical material of the first order, independently of the question whether it might reasonably anticipate immediate pecuniary returns. One of its last contributions for which we venture to express the gratitude of students is the first part of Lasker's memoirs.

This first part covers the parliamentary activity between 1866 and 1880, years which may be said to represent the golden time of German constitutional government—the period during which Bismarck needed the liberal party for his schemes of national federation. In this liberal party he found the brains capable of popularizing a movement which had many opponents among those who dreaded any innovation. In those days the liberals of Germany were the warmest Bismarckians, for Bismarckianism was then synonymous with liberalism. In that golden age Bismarck paid his court to those who soon afterwards were publicly branded as traitors to the crown. We have but to recall such names as Mommsen, Wirchow, Bunsen, Bamberger, and finally Lasker. The student of modern Germany cannot afford to miss these pages of Lasker, for while he was a man little given to demonstrative activity, he was, like Bamberger, a keen observer, a man of profound study, a cool, impartial (*objectiv*), statesmanlike politician, and as such a reporter of his times who cannot fail to rank as first-rate authority.

It seems but yesterday that we had the pleasure of greeting Lasker in New York. It was in the winter of 1883/1884. He died in our midst, mourned sincerely by German liberals throughout the world. Such men as he are necessarily more rare in Germany than in England or America, for the reason that Germany offers scarcely any means of livelihood or distinction to any man who has not from babyhood been trained by a paternal government to think only what the government has first pronounced to be fit for thought. Much of Bismarck's greatness arose from the fact that his ambitions coincided with the convictions of Germany's most eminent thinkers. When, after 1876, Bismarckianism came to represent other aims, notably protection, then the thinkers of Germany who did not change their manner of thinking to suit the exigencies of the Wilhelm Strasse found themselves denounced by the government as renegades, unpatriotic cosmopolitans, bad Germans—in short, every name that party bitterness could suggest.

Lasker's plea for free trade (p. 136) might well have been spoken on the floor of the American Senate as well as in the Reichstag, for it raises the controversy high above the mists of Bismarckian opportunist skirmish—up into the high and dry light of statesmanlike discussion. The protectionist arguments of Bismarck were from the standpoint of a single class or political fraction whose votes he needed. The language of Lasker is that of a statesman who as a member of the imperial parliament knows

no higher duty than that which he owes to the whole empire. Those who wish to understand the causes of Bismarck's ultimate fall in 1890 will seek for it in vain in the memoirs of the Iron Chancellor or in the writings of those who regard him as having been sacrificed to the ambition of his emperor. Bismarck was successful so long as his duties lay in exercising the talents which had earned for him the nickname of Iron Chancellor. When, however, after the adoption of the federal imperial constitution, other qualities besides those of the man of iron were needed, Bismarck commenced to move gently downward through a series of political errors which even he, with the whole machinery of a servile press and bureaucracy, could not wholly conceal from the public or from the penetrating eyes of the present Emperor. On this theme Lasker in the little work we are discussing throws many interesting side-lights.

POULTNEY BIGELOW.

Studies in Contemporary Biography. By JAMES BRYCE. (New York : The Macmillan Company ; London : Macmillan and Company. 1903. Pp. ix, 487.)

THIS volume is intended especially for the general reader, but is also worth the careful attention of the historical student, not only because any fragment of Mr. Bryce's work is of interest, but because a historian who is also a prominent man of affairs here presents us with the cream of his personal experience in studies of the most prominent figures among his associates in the English public and scholastic life of the later nineteenth century. The selection may seem at times a somewhat arbitrary and uneven one, and from the point of view of the adequate representation of the author's notable contemporaries there are certainly important omissions; this is apparently due not only to the confining of attention to those who have died, but also to the degree in which the writer was guided by the element of personal knowledge. The list bears striking testimony to the wide extent of the interests and friendships of Mr. Bryce, since with most of the men here treated he was on an intimate footing. One or two names (as that of Edward Bowen, an assistant master at Rugby) that are unknown outside of comparatively narrow English circles are included. In the effort, as the author says, "to do what a friend can do to present a faithful record of their excellence which may help to keep their memory fresh and green." One is not inclined to cavil at such an effort, especially as in the case of Bowen the sketch serves to set strongly before the non-English (and particularly the American) reader how in England even a subordinate teacher in a great public school may in some degree become a national figure. We are warned in the preface that "these studies are not to be regarded as biographies even in miniature. My aim has rather been to analyse the character and powers of each of the persons described, and as far as possible, to convey the impression which each made in the daily converse of life."

There are in all twenty studies: Lord Beaconsfield, Dean Stanley, T. H. Green, Archbishop Tait, Anthony Trollope, J. R. Green, Sir